

The Seventh Sunday of Easter

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**May 24, 2020 – 8:00 A.M.**

*Our weekly Sunday worship service will be available  
beginning at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday, at [www.stpetersepiscopal.org](http://www.stpetersepiscopal.org)  
or via our Facebook page, [facebook.com/specstl](https://facebook.com/specstl).*

Words of Welcome

*While our buildings are closed, our hearts remain open.  
We thank you for inviting us into your homes  
and more importantly,  
we thank you for inviting the Spirit of God  
into your hearts, minds, and lives.*

*Because we have closed our physical church this service has been created  
by worship leaders in their homes just as you are in your homes today.  
You will recognize many of the words and prayers.  
Some have been adapted to reflect our experience of worshipping from home.*

*While technically this is not a Eucharist it is eucharistic,  
and while it is not Holy Communion it is offered as a way for us  
to commune with each other and Almighty God.*

*As we begin our worship,  
we invite you to remember those who typically sit beside you  
and those who sit in front of and behind you  
and those who come into your mind as you remember.*

*Remember also that as we worship we join with the whole communion of saints,  
with those who have gone before us,  
those present with us in gatherings around the world  
and those saints yet to come.*

*Let us join with all the saints and the whole company of heaven  
and worship our God, who makes all things new.*

## THE WORD OF GOD

*The Service begins on page 355 of The Book of Common Prayer.*

Introit *Exaudi Domine*

Plainsong, Mode 7

Consider, O Lord, and hear me, when I cry unto thee, alleluia: unto thee my heart hath said, Thy face, Lord, have I sought; thy face, Lord will I seek; O hide not thou thy face from thy servant, alleluia, alleluia. The Lord is my light, and my salvation: whom then shall I fear?

— Psalm 27: 8,9,1

Hymn 494: “Crown him with many crowns”

Diademata

Opening Sentences

*Priest:* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People:* **The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

The Collect for Purity

*Priest:* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Gloria in excelsis (*Hymnal S 278*)

William Mathias (1934–1992)

*All:* **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

*Priest:* The Risen Lord is with us.

Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

*People:* **Amen.**

The Lessons

*Lector:* A Reading from The Book of The Acts of the Apostles. (1: 6-14)

So when they had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew,

Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

*Lector:* Thanks be to God for this holy word.

Psalm 68: 1-10, 33-36

- 1 Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered;  
let those who hate him flee before him.
- 2 Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away;  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
- 3 But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God;  
let them also be merry and joyful.
- 4 Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;  
Yahweh is his Name, rejoice before him!
- 5 Father of orphans, defender of widows,  
God in his holy habitation!
- 6 God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom;  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
- 7 O God, when you went forth before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,
- 8 The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
- 9 You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance;  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
- 10 Your people found their home in it;  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;  
sing praises to the Lord.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens;  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God;  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.
- 36 How wonderful is God in his holy places!  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!

*All:* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

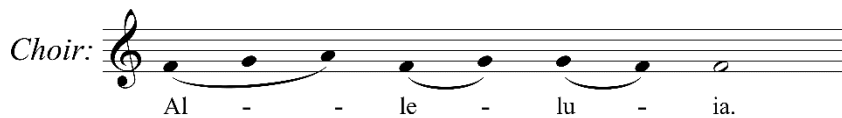
*Lector:* A Reading from The First Letter of Peter. (4: 12–14; 5: 6 –11)

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Lector:* Thanks be to God for this holy word.

*Alleluia Regnavit Dominus*

Plainsong, Mode 6



*Choir:* God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon his holy seat.



*Choir:* I will not leave you comfortless: I go away and come again unto you, and your heart shall rejoice.



– Psalm 47:8; John 14:18

*Priest:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. (17: 1-11)

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed. I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

*Priest:* Praise to you our living Gospel, Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Rob Voyle

*To allow for your personal reflection, a time of silence will be kept following the sermon.*

The Nicene Creed

p. 358

*People:*   **We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

*The intercessor will pause at the ... so you may offer your prayers.*

**Intercessor:** Almighty God, we thank you for your Ascended Christ, who has taken our humanity into your presence and sits at your righthand interceding for us. Ascended Lord Jesus, freed from the constraints of time and space, we thank you for your presence with us this day just as you are fully present to all who gather in your name throughout the world. We celebrate that we are now hidden with you in God and we pray saying: Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.

We pray for your Church O Lord, a temporal expression of your love in the world. We pray for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our presiding Bishop; for the Diocesan Standing Committee and Deon, our Bishop-elect; for the people of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, and for their interim priest; for Rob, Kelly, and Joseph, our clergy; for our staff and the people of St. Peter's; that as followers of Jesus we would have the courage to love as Jesus loves;

**People:** **Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

We pray for the leaders of the world, that, in the midst of their posturing and threats, they would know that you are the one true ruler, risen, ascended, and enthroned in glory. Help our leaders and all humanity know that true leadership is a life of service and pursuit of justice for all;

**Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

We pray with gratitude for the wonder of your creation, Lord. Help us be wise stewards of the beauty you have given us that the generations to come will live in a world that continues to remind them of the wonder of your power and might;

**Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

We pray, Lord, for people who feel alone in our community and need the assurance of human warmth. Help us as the community of St. Peter's to unlock the Kingdom of your love here on earth by opening and growing our hearts of compassion;

**Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

We pray for people who despair in times of sickness, grief, unemployment, imprisonment, and afflictions of every kind, that they know the hope of Christ. We pray especially for people on our hearts today...especially for Brooke Erwin, Fran Kempton, Bryan Miller, Linda Morotz, Ned Lemkemeier, Greyson Schnoebelen, Carl Schuldt and Julie Stephenson. Help us to be bearers of hope and love for those who suffer;

**Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

We pray for our loved ones who have died and gone before us into the fullness of your presence... And we pray for people who grieve, that our presence in their lives will be a comfort in their time of loss;

**Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

We pray for ourselves – the people of St. Peter's – as we contemplate re-entry from our pandemic isolation. Guide us by your Spirit to make wise decisions that are safe and sane for all members of our community;

**Pray for us Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Priest:** Lord Jesus Christ, you have ascended into glory, and are seated at the right hand of God Almighty. We thank you for being the God who understands our humanity and the world in which we live. We thank you for interceding for us and giving us your Holy Spirit. Prepare our hearts for a fresh infilling of your Holy Spirit this Pentecost and make us one with each other and one with you hidden in the heart of God. **Amen.**

## Exchanging the Peace

*Priest:* The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*People:* **And also with you.**

*We invite you to take a moment and extend the peace of God to members of your household and then to people in the world whom you love and struggle to love.*

## Announcements

Happy Memorial Day! As we gather for worship today, the day before Memorial Day, we pause and remember all those who have given their lives fighting for the security of our nation. On several occasions I have presided at funerals in some of the large Veterans' cemeteries and have felt two deep emotions: gratitude for those who have paid with their lives that I might live; and enormous sorrow at the cost, of lives cut short, and humanity's failure to learn a different way of being people and nations.

As we think of our veterans' sacrifice, I am also aware of the sacrifice of health care workers, some of whom have also made the ultimate sacrifice and died, as they have cared for people infected with the covid-19 virus. This Memorial Day please take some time to remember and be grateful for the people who have paid the ultimate price so that you and I can live in health and safety.

### ***Please Stay Connected***

*Please continue to check our website [www.stpetersepiscopal.org](http://www.stpetersepiscopal.org) and News from the Rock for our virtual programing and updates on our work as a church in the world when our doors are closed but our hearts remain open.*

*Each Sunday we will also be hosting a live Children's Chapel on Zoom at 10:15 a.m. followed by a live adult forum on Zoom at 10:30 a.m.*

*Please check your email updates and News from the Rock for the Zoom access information.*

### ***Please Give Online***

*Since we are gathering virtually, we are not passing the offertory plates and so we do ask that you go online to [www.stpetersepiscopal.org](http://www.stpetersepiscopal.org) and select the "Give" or the "Realm" link to make a donation or to pay your pledge.*

*If you have any questions about our online giving please contact Darlene at [finance@stpetersepiscopal.org](mailto:finance@stpetersepiscopal.org).*

## **THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*Priest:* I appeal to you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

## The Anthem

Maurice Greene (1696–1755)

O clap your hands together, all ye people; O sing unto God with the voice of melody. For the Lord is high and to be feared; He is the great King upon all the earth. He shall subdue the people under us, and the nations under our feet. O sing praises unto our God, O sing praises unto our King. For God is the King of all the earth: sing ye praises with understanding.

– Psalm 47

*As we gather with all the saints, past, present and future to worship God we remember and give thanks for the men and women in our armed forces who have died serving our country, and we pray for the day when peace will prevail and people will no longer have to go to war and die that we can live.*



*We remember the people in our community who are ill and pray for their recovery.*

*We remember especially the people in the medical profession,  
doctors, nurses, technicians, emergency workers, and others  
who are putting their lives on the line, and some have died, to care for people who are sick.*

*We offer our worship to the glory of God with gratitude for their courage and service  
and with our prayers for their safety.*

The Great Thanksgiving: Adapted from Eucharistic Prayer A

p. 361

*Priest:* The Lord is present with us.  
We lift our hearts to the Lord and give God thanks and praise.  
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Through your dearly beloved Son Jesus Christ our Lord. After his glorious resurrection he openly appeared to his disciples, and in their sight ascended into heaven, to prepare a place for us; that where he is, there we might also be, and reign with him in glory.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus and Benedictus

Mass in E, Jeffrey Smith

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord.

God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-

san - na in the high-est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho-

san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Priest:* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*Priest:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you ourselves, our souls and bodies as a living sacrifice.

Sanctify us by your Holy Spirit to faithfully serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer

p. 364

*Priest:* And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People:* **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Fraction Anthem (*Hymnal S 155*)

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Spiritual Communion

*Priest:* Remember O people of God, who Jesus was, and is, and will be forevermore.  
Behold in him his Body and Blood, broken and shed for us all.  
Let us feed on him in our hearts, by faith with thanksgiving.

*While we are unable to physically partake of the sacrament,  
we invite you to make your communion by praying the following prayer,  
adapted from the prayer of St. Alphonsus de Liguori:*

*All:* **Beloved Jesus,  
We believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of the altar.  
We long for you in our souls,  
to know that we are in you and that you are in us.  
Though physically isolated from your altar  
and the sacrament of your Body and Blood,  
We receive you into our hearts and the depths of our being.  
United with you, help us know  
that our lives are hid with you O Christ in the heart of God. Amen.**

*A moment of silence is kept.*

#### Post-Communion Prayer

*Priest:* Let us pray.  
Eternal God, Creator of all, we give you thanks and praise that when we were still far off you met us in your son and brought us home. Living and dying he declared your love and forgiveness, which you confirmed in raising him from the dead. In his ascension he has borne us through the veil that was torn asunder by his crucifixion and has hidden us in You.

*People:* **O Ascended Christ in the highest heaven and in the depths of our hearts we thank you for making us one with you in the heart of God.  
Keep us anchored in this glorious hope that you have given us, until we and all humanity are free, and your whole creation praises you. Amen.**

#### Ascensiontide Blessing

*Priest:* Alleluia, Christ has ascended:  
*People:* **The veil of the temple has been torn in two, alleluia!**  
Alleluia, Christ has ascended:  
**He has taken our humanity into the heart of God, alleluia!**  
Alleluia, Christ has ascended:  
**Humanity and Divinity are now made one, alleluia!**  
Alleluia, Christ has ascended:  
**Our lives are hid with Christ in God, alleluia!**

*Priest:* And the blessing of new life from God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Life-Giver, be among you, and remain with you and all those whom you love and struggle to love, now and forever.

*People:* **Amen.**

#### The Dismissal

*Priest:* Alleluia, Alleluia! Go in peace to love and enjoy the Ascended Christ.  
*People:* **We go in the name of Love. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Hymn 450: All hail the power of Jesus' Name

*Coronation*

*MUSIC NOTES:* The Introit is sung by Lindsay Parker-Klimpel, soprano. • The Alleluia is sung by Samantha Arten, soprano. • The recording of the opening hymn is from the Seventh Sunday of Easter, 2017. • The recording of the anthem and the final hymn is from the Seventh Sunday of Easter, 2016. • The Fraction Anthem was sung on the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, 2019. • OneLicense reprint and podcasting license A-722743. For all other copyright holders, permission requested.

## ***PRAYER LIST***

**For Parishioners:** Brooke Erwin, Ned Lemkemeier, Bryan Miller, Linda Morotz and Carl Schuldt.

**For Family and Friends:** Fran Kempton, Greyson Schnoebelen and Julie Stephenson.

**For the Men and Women of the Armed Forces:** Zach Greata and Matt Robinson.

**For those Committed to Our Ongoing Prayers:** Michelle Arthur, Donna Brookman, Arlene Burnham, Chris Canepa, Elizabeth Clarke, Devon Corbett, Kathryn Dewein, Lucy Dolan, Greg Evans, Carol Fisher, Samantha Forsko, Karen Goddard, Patty Hecker, Clayton Hicks, Laney Johnson, Susan Kerkering, Madelyn Lane, Ann McDonald, Bill McMahon, Elizabeth Mendoza, Cheryl Meyer, Steven Minton, Signe Myles, Louisa Rix, Jeffrey Rixleben, Sarah Roberts, Rory Sabbah, Kathy Sheehan, Gerald Spencer, Wayne Spohr, Jane St. John, Julie Stephenson, Rebecca Tyler, Meg Walters, Scott Weaver, Rolla Wetzel, Dick Williams and Joey Wilson.

## ***TODAY...***

**RE-ENTRY PLANS AND COFFEE WITH THE RECTOR** – When we closed the church we said we would review the decision at the end of May. With the proposed relaxation of the “Stay at Home” orders, we are continuing to review and prepare for our re-entry. Based on conversation with many parishioners at last Sunday’s forum, our vestry and staff and watching the St. Louis county’s new infection rates continuing to be high, (they jumped from 34 to 62 in the last 24 hours) it seems very unwise to re-open, especially for public worship, in the first two weeks of June. So we will continue our current practice at least until June 14.

We are continuing to explore our options and will continue to offer services and programming online and via Zoom. When we eventually re-open we anticipate continuing to offer our Sunday worship online as we gradually introduce small in person worship services that satisfies the physical distancing requirements. We are also considering some events on the lawn. We will continue those conversations this Sunday at the Coffee with the Rector forum. Join Rob via a live Zoom chat at 10:30. For those unable to connect by the internet you can call in by telephone. **The link to join will be in Friday’s *News from The Rock*.**

—Rob Voyle, *Interim Rector*

**STAY CONNECTED** – Please “Follow Us” and “Like Us” on our social media pages!

- Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/specstl>
- Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/specstl/>

**ZOOM LINKS** – To ensure that our virtual time together remains a sacred and welcoming space, Zoom links are not available on our website. **Find details on how to join Zoom sessions in *News from the Rock* online newsletter which is emailed each week.** Don’t miss an opportunity to join us! If you are not signed up for the newsletter, visit our website homepage. Scroll down to “Get Weekly News” and sign up!

**CHILDREN’S CHAPEL** – Join us online at 10:15 on Sunday mornings for our beloved Sunday morning Children’s Chapel! You can find instructions for joining us via Zoom in Friday’s *News from the Rock*. We can’t wait to see you!

## ***THIS WEEK...***

**MORNING PRAYER** – Brew a cup of tea or coffee, and let’s pray each morning with and for one another, the community and the world. Join via Zoom at 8:00 each morning, Monday through Friday. The link is provided in Friday’s *News from the Rock*.

**WOMAN’S GUILD** – Join us this Tuesday for great conversation via Zoom at 2:00 p.m. The link is provided in your weekly Guild email. Set aside some time for a bit of laughter and to catch up with one another!

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES** – Enjoy lunch with Fr. Joseph and Mrs. Babington! This is a great chance to connect midweek with families and children of all ages. Join us **each Wednesday at Noon** for a live Zoom meeting while you are eating lunch. Let’s enjoy time to talk with one another, hear a Bible Story, learn a new song, and discuss how we might continue to help others during this time of staying at home. Watch for the Zoom link in your weekly email, and let’s all look forward to our very own lunch meeting every Wednesday!

**SPECIAL GIFTS** — What a perfect time to show your gratitude with a gift in honor of a graduate or another special person in your life. Your gift will support the ministry of St. Peter’s Church. Ways to donate:

1. Mail addressed to St. Peter’s Episcopal Church, 110 N. Warson Road, St. Louis, MO 63124.
2. Make your pledge payment or gift online at [www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give](http://www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give) .
3. Give by text - simply type SPECSTL to 73256 and follow the prompts.

**OUR EASTER OFFERING** – Forty-nine percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck. More than 33.5 million Americans are now unemployed, and more than 600,000 people in Missouri have applied for unemployment benefits since mid-March. One in every six individuals lives in poverty and struggles with hunger in the greater **St. Louis** region, including more than 172,000 children. Please consider donating to provide much-needed immediate relief to people who have been affected by Covid-19. The St. Peter’s Outreach Committee has selected five organizations providing food, supplies, and monetary relief to our community. St. Peter’s is donating \$20,000 (\$4,000 to each organization) and so far St. Peter’s parishioners have generously given an additional \$6,425. We are making it easy for you to take action! Visit [www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give](http://www.stpetersepiscopal.org/give) and click on the **“Easter Offering - Outreach”** button. With your help we hope to double the amount St. Peter’s can give to these frontline efforts to love one another as Jesus loved us. Listed below are the five organizations. Visit their websites for further information:

- [Trinity Church \(Central West End\) Food Pantry](#)
- [St. Louis Area Food Bank](#)
- [Urban League Food and Toiletries Distribution](#)
- [Great Circle St. Louis](#)
- [Gateway Resilience Fund](#)

**50 DAYS OF EASTER** – As part of the Fifty Days of Easter program, Rob will be guiding us through a weekly formation piece via Zoom at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings. Everyone is welcome to join in the live Zoom call, or watch the recording from our YouTube page the next day. The link is provided in Friday’s *News from the Rock*. If you missed the last Wednesday evening session, watch from our YouTube page.

**SHARE THE PEACE!** – Would you consider serving in our online Sunday worship service by responding to the clergy’s offering of the Peace on video? We would love to see more parishioners sharing in our virtual worship together, and what better way than by sharing the Peace of the Lord! If you have the means to record yourself and/or members of your family sharing the Peace and would like to participate in the adventure of online worship, please email the Rev. Kelly Carlson at [kcarlson@stpetersepiscopal.org](mailto:kcarlson@stpetersepiscopal.org).

**FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** – While St. Peter’s campus is closed, Friday Bible Study will be happening via Zoom. If you would like to join the 7:00 a.m. conversation, please email [kcarlson@stpetersepiscopal.org](mailto:kcarlson@stpetersepiscopal.org) by Thursday evening, and Kelly will send you the link.

**PENTECOST SUNDAY** – Celebrate God’s gift of the Holy Spirit with Bishop-elect Deon! We are excited to have our Bishop-elect, the Rev. Deon Johnson, make his first visitation to St. Peter’s **next week**, on the Feast of Pentecost. **Join Bishop-elect Deon for worship on youtube, beginning at 8:00 a.m. on May 31<sup>st</sup>.** We hope children of all ages will warmly welcome him to Children’s Chapel at 10:15 on Zoom. Finally, come to Coffee with the Bishop-elect at 10:30 via Zoom, where he will be ready to answer your questions, and may have a few to ask us in return. Help us to make Bishop-elect Deon’s first celebration of Pentecost in Missouri a joyful morning!

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT HOME!** – Even though we won’t be gathering in person this summer for VBS, we hope all St. Peter’s children will join us online for VBS Zoom Meetings, June 1-5, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. We’ll learn about Jesus’ Parables and enjoy special guest artists that include the St. Louis Zoo, Mad Science and Jackie King’s Alpaca Farm. All ages are welcome and you can register and make your payment online at [www.stpetersepiscopal.org/vbs2020](http://www.stpetersepiscopal.org/vbs2020).

**GREAT OPPORTUNITY** – After seven years of serving as Director of Christian Education, Ann Babington will be retiring this summer. While it may be hard to imagine our children’s ministries without the amazing Mrs. Babington at the helm, if you love children and seek a spiritually rewarding part-time position, we hope you can picture yourself in this job! If you are interested in obtaining a job description and much more information, please contact Rob Voyle at [robv@stpetersepiscopal.org](mailto:robv@stpetersepiscopal.org) or Ann at [annbabington@gmail.com](mailto:annbabington@gmail.com). And stay tuned for information about a celebration of Ann’s joyful ministry among us!

**ST. PETER’S CARES** – Need a ride, a meal or a prayer? St. Peter’s has a ministry that can help – that’s St. Peter’s Cares! Leave a voicemail or email (314-993-2306, ext. 125 or [shepherd@stpetersepiscopal.org](mailto:shepherd@stpetersepiscopal.org)) and a Shepherd will contact you within 24 hours.

*Immediately following this service on Sunday morning beginning at 10:15, join Children’s Chapel and Coffee with the Rector, live via Zoom. The link may be found in your Friday News from the Rock enews.*

*Remember that though our buildings are closed, our hearts are open!*

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